



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY PREVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE (PPC)

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While not required of meeting participants, signing-in constitutes public notice of attendance. Presence at meetings is recorded solely based on sign-in sheets, and not signing-in constitutes absence for Commission members. Only members of the Commission on HIV are accorded voting privileges, thus Commissioners who have not signed in cannot vote. Sign-in sheets are available upon request.

JOINT COMMISSION ON HIV/ PREVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE (PPC) MEETING MINUTES June 4, 2009

Approved
6/11/2009

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT	PPC MEMBERS PRESENT	COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT	OAPP/HIV EPI STAFF
Carla Bailey, <i>Co-Chair</i>	AJ King, <i>Community Co-Chair</i>	Anthony Bongiorno	Chi-Wai Au
Anthony Braswell, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Terry Smith, <i>Community Co-Chair</i>	Joanne Granai	Tru Pawluck
Sergio Aviña	Michael Green, <i>Gov. Co-Chair</i>	Anna Long	Juhua Wu
Al Ballesteros	Sophia Rumanes, <i>Gov. Co-Chair</i>	Quentin O'Brien	Dave Young
Carrie Broadus	Traci Bivens-Davis	Chris Villa	
Robert Butler	Scott Campbell		
Eric Daar	Juli-Ann Carlos		PUBLIC
Nettie DeAugustine	John Copeland	PPC MEMBERS ABSENT	Darrin A.
Whitney Engeran-Cordova	Cesar Cuadra	Tyrone Carter	Richi Acosm
Douglas Frye	Daniel Deniz	Trevor Daniels	Noél Alvarez
David Giugni*	David Giugni*	Precious Stallworth	Vicki Ashley
Terry Goddard	Mario Gonzalez		Cheryl Barrit
Jeffrey Goodman/Sharon Chamberlain	Philip Hendricks		Heidi Booth
Michael Johnson	Jeffrey King	COMMISSION STAFF/CONSULTANTS	Diane Brown
Lee Kochems*	Lee Kochems*		Fredy Ceja
Brad Land	Miguel Martinez	Julie Cross	Susan Cohen
Ted Liso	Victor Martinez	Carolyn Echols-Watson	David Crain
Manuel Negrete	Sandra Olivas	Dawn McClendon	Boyd Crough
Everardo Orozco/Ron Osorio*	Ron Osorio*	Jane Nachazel	Mark Davis
Dean Page	Ricki Rosales	Glenda Pinney	Randy Dreyer
Angélica Palmeros	Jill Rotenberg	Doris Reed	Claudia Estrada
Mario Pérez	Enrique Topete	James Stewart	Kevin Farrell
Robert Sotomayor	Kimberlee Woods	Craig Vincent-Jones	Lawrence Fernandez
Peg Taylor	Tim Young	Nicole Werner	Miguel Fernandez
Kathy Watt			Lisa Fisher
Fariba Younai			Susan Forrest
			Humberto Franco
			Vicki Freda
			Thelma Garcia

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PUBLIC, CONT.	PUBLIC, CONT.	PUBLIC, CONT.	PUBLIC, CONT.
Shawn Griffin	Rich Mathias	Terri Reynolds	Russell Thornhill
Carl Highshaw	Ismael Morales	Josh Riley	Marie Unanios
Miki Jackson	Veronica Morales	Michelle Roland	Rose Veniegas
Elliot Johnson	Luenia Navarro	Julian Sanchez	Jay Villarreal
Uxeh Kao	Jenny O'Malley	Natalie Sanchez	Sara Weisfeldt
Laura Kassebaum	Joanne Oliver	Shoshanna Scholar	Yvette Wells
Gabriela León	Herbath Osorio	Stephen Simon	Sharon White
Brian Lieu	Manuel Padua	Lisa Soltis	Bryon Wilmoth
Darnyl Lovett	Angelica Pineda	Lambert Talley	Richard Zaldivar
Ingrid Marchus	Meghan Ralston	Beverly Thomas	Parker Zamas

* Indicates dual Commission and PPC membership

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- Mr. Braswell called the meeting to order at 9:20 am. He noted it would be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order and the California Brown Act. AJ King, PPC Community Co-Chair, and Mr. Braswell, Commission Co-Chair, were selected by all six co-chairs to facilitate the meeting, with the help of Mr. Stewart, Parliamentarian.
- Mr. Braswell reported the County position on HIV services is that there should be no cuts. The meeting will function under that premise. AJ King noted the Emergency Joint Public Policy (JPP) Committee meeting considered discussing possible service priorities. It was decided that time would be better spent educating the community and strategizing how to save all services.

A. Roll Call (Present):

- Commission:** Aviña, Ballesteros, Braswell, Broadus, Daar, Frye, Giugni*, Goddard, Goodman, Johnson, Kochems*, Land, Liso, Negrete, Osario, Page, Younai
- PPC:** Bivens-Davis, Campbell, Carlos, Copeland, Giugni*, Gonzalez, Green, Hendricks, AJ King, Kochems*, Miguel Martinez, Victor Martinez, Osorio*, Rosales, Rumanes, Smith, Topete, Woods, Young

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION 1: Approve the Agenda Order (*Passed by Consensus*).

3. PUBLIC COMMENT, NON-AGENDIZED:

- Ms. Cohen, Director, Education and Prevention Services, LA Gay and Lesbian Center, expressed concern about the 7/1/2009 start for HE/RR contracts. Unstable funding can cause staff disruptions undercutting continuity of care for clients, and she suggested the start of the new HE/RR contracts be delayed.
- Mr. Wilmoth is Program Director of Rainbow Bridge Community Services, a LGBT substance abuse facility in Silverlake. He reported several cost-saving ideas have developed, such as doubling up HOPWA clients, but there is no place to discuss those ideas in open forums.
- Ms. White, Watts Health Care Corporation, and former SPA 6 SPN Coordinator, offered SPA 6 resources to help mobilize activities. Her agency expects to lose six of their programs.
- Mr. Butler related comments from consumers unable to attend. Consumers have already suffered cuts and tighter eligibility requirements. They support identifying other revenue sources. They are also concerned about who will take over OA roles.
- Mr. Land thanked all the agencies who have allowed the Consumer Caucus to use their facilities after hours to mobilize.

4. STATE OFFICE OF AIDS (OA) REPORT:

- The following joined the meeting by conference call from Sacramento: Dr. Roland, Director, OA; Ms. Taylor, Chief, HIV Care Branch, OA; Mr. Lieu, Education and Prevention Services Branch, OA.
- Dr. Roland reported the Legislative Conference Committee heard public testimony, including on OA cuts, the previous week.
- The current budget proposal would cut AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) by \$12.3 million, which is a smaller cut than previously proposed. All other General Fund program support would be cut, including: Surveillance, Education and Prevention (E&P), Counseling and Testing (HC/T), Early Intervention Programs (EIP), Home and Community Based Care (HCBC), Therapeutic Monitoring Program (TMP), and Housing.
- According to Dr. Roland, Ryan White funding for care and treatment programs and CDC funding for E&P and HC/T should not be affected in the short term. The HRSA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) required for Ryan White services could be at risk starting 4/1/2011.

- A Legislative Conference Committee hearing on health issues was scheduled for 6/5/2009. The Department of Finance will present with one expert per subject area, including Dr. Roland for technical advice, if needed. Program representatives usually testify during Senate and Assembly subcommittee hearings, but those were not held. Program impact information was prepared as usual for the Legislature and in response to legislative consultant questions.
- The resulting budget will go to the Legislature for approval and then to the Governor for signature.
- OA staff is developing contingency plans for what remains. Negotiations are ongoing with federal partners for maximum flexibility. The General Fund, however, provides up to 80% of program funds, so proposed cuts would be severe.
- Mr. Page asked if people understood lives were threatened. Dr. Roland had not spoken with those in the Governor's Office, but knew others were moved by public testimony and felt badly about the budget proposals.
- Mr. Martinez asked if Jeffrey Crowley, National Office of AIDS, had been contacted. Dr. Roland heard several community members had spoken with him. OA has also received questions through HRSA from Health and Human Services (HHS) in response to their communications with HRSA, CDC and HUD, so information reached HHS leadership and Mr. Crowley.
- Dr. Roland stated that OA cannot advocate on its own behalf, but only provide factual information.

5. OVERVIEW/INTRODUCTION:

A. Overview of Budget Cuts:

- Ms. Cross, Benefits Consultant, emphasized the community must keep current on this complex material because decisions are being made quickly. She noted many non-HIV programs also must be watched as they impact PWH.
- The Governor's special session passed 2009 and 2010 budgets signed in February including cuts like to optional Medi-Cal benefits like Denti-Cal. The Governor later released two May Revise versions to address continued fiscal deterioration based on passage/failure of May budget propositions. Both layers of cuts were kept as propositions failed. More cuts are proposed as the federal government refused assistance and the budget gap has increased another \$3 billion.
- The OA budget will be slashed \$80.1 million: \$24.6 million, E&P; \$12.3 million, ADAP with recommendations to reduce formulary and charge premiums above 200% Federal Poverty Level; and \$43.2 million to programs including surveillance, HC/T, EIP, TMP, HCBC and housing.
- Ten Medi-Cal optional benefits including Denti-Cal and Optometry are scheduled for elimination 7/1/2009. The current proposal would also cut: dialysis, non-digestive nutrition, and breast and cervical cancer treatment for those aged 65+. Legal immigrants would be reduced to emergency coverage and the undocumented would lose all coverage. Managed care mental health would be cut. Reductions are proposed to private hospital and skilled nursing facility reimbursement rates and certain substance abuse programs. Savings are proposed through new anti-fraud and drug purchasing programs.
- Federal Stimulus Act funds forbid raising eligibility standards, but the Governor is seeking a federal waiver to save \$1 billion, probably by moving people into share-of-cost. If unsuccessful, the \$1 billion gap would still have to be filled.
- Other proposed cuts are: In-Home Support Service (IHSS) restriction to severe functional index score 4 with increased cost-sharing for those who are still eligible; Supplemental Security Income (SSI) reductions 5/1/2009, 7/1/2009, 9/1/2009; elimination of Cash Assistance and CA Food for immigrants; elimination of CalWorks family care; and shift of Proposition 99 funds into Medi-Cal which undercuts the major risk insurance pool.
- Mr. Butler asked, given the speed of cuts, how consumers can respond. Ms. Cross said it was important to first become educated and then advocate for changes before legislation is signed.
- Ms. DeAugustine reported AIDS directors met two weeks ago. Ms. Roland provided an update, but reported all offices were informed of cuts by the Department of Finance. Offices were not allowed to provide input in identifying cuts.
- Ms. Braswell noted the importance of maintaining pressure because the fiscal situation would not be resolved by next year.
- Mr. Engeran-Cordova said, for the first time, this conversation pertains to state solvency, not ideology or politics. Context is important. Conversation needs to focus on responsibility for the poor/disabled in a distressed economy.
- Mr. Land suggested health care reform might alleviate some cuts via Medicaid/Medicare. Ms. Cross reported meeting with Mr. Crowley 6/1/2009 along with Mr. Pérez, Mr. Baker and Susan White, the County's health advocate. He and others were aware and concerned. Health care reform will likely be voted this summer, with implementation in a few years, so will not help short-term. Cuts, however, are of federal interest as they dismantle structure needed for reform.
- Ms. Forrest asked about food stamps and General Relief. Ms. Cross said the first is federally funded; the latter funded by counties. No cuts are scheduled, but they do need to be watched for possible cascading consequences.
- Ms. Ralston, Drug Policy Alliance, said she represented needs of the syringe-using population. She asked how quickly consumers would feel the impact of cuts if approved. She suggested preparing consumer information so it is available quickly to help consumers find other resources. Ms. Cross replied some cuts have been implemented, others are planned for 7/1/2009, and still others are planned for October. Energy should be focused now on blocking additional cuts.

B. LA County Impact:

- Mr. Pérez, Director, Office of AIDS Programs and Policy (OAPP), reported usual annual income of about \$86 million from six funding streams, each with its own funding cycle: Federal Care, 42%; Federal Prevention, 14% (down about 35% to \$12.6 million); Federal Demonstration Projects, 2%; State Care, 8%; State Prevention, 12%; Net County Cost, 22%, \$17.3 million MOE. There is no federal/state roll-over guarantee, so the goal is to use funds within the grant year.
- Proposed state cuts are from the General Fund. They encompass a broad cross-section of services totaling a cut of more than \$15 million to OAPP and the County including: all E&P, \$5.3 million; HC/T, \$1.1 million; surveillance, \$1.69 million; EIP (Bridge and Path), \$2 million; TMP, \$3 million; and HCBC, \$2 million and \$2 million directly from the State to seven County providers. The County also uses about 40% of ADAP which is cut 12.8%. OA has been proposed to be cut by half.
- OAPP is committed to maintaining the most robust, effective, cost-efficient HIV service continuum that allows for maximum disease prevention and diagnosis, allowing PWH to thrive while averting new infections, estimated at 3,000 annually, and identifying those with undiagnosed infections.
- Specific immediate or long-term reductions are not yet known, but proposed cuts can be assumed effective 7/1/2009. State revenues will likely also stay depressed for some time. HIV/AIDS stakeholders will continue to be thoughtful, united and vocal while planners will continue to be considered and deliberate in decisions.
- OAPP does not want to suspend services preemptively. Therefore, the HC/T RFP and rebids for SPAs 1 and 5 were scored and moved to the Chief Executive and Board Offices, HE/RR will be done in about two weeks, and the SPA 1 RFP was released 6/3/2009. County leaders understand the 2 ½ year HC/T contracts include \$2.8 million in state resources. Work continues on the Medical Services RFP though it does rely on some state resources.
- Mr. Pérez said it was important that OA and the County are allowed flexibility with remaining funds if cuts are made.
- He added Ryan White extension and County collaboration with the City on HOPWA is needed even more urgently.
- Mr. Land asked about funding for the Crystal Meth Program. Mr. Pérez said it was funded by the County, so it is not currently at risk.
- Dr. Frye, Director, HIV Epidemiology Program, reported a \$1.69 million surveillance program cut which supports 14 of the County's 28 surveillance staff. That will cut the 7,000 cases reported last year by half. Each case represents \$1,500 to \$2,500 in funding. Cuts also imperil the transition to eHARS planned to begin in July 2009 to meet the CDC nationwide transition target.
- Local HIV surveillance is General Fund-supported, so those lacking other funding cannot continue, e.g., Long Beach will lose three staff who report about 10% of the County's cases. Federal funds only coordinate State surveillance.
- Mr. Land asked if local jurisdictions could assume state surveillance coordination. Dr. Frye said the state had federal coordination funds, but will be unable to compensate for state funds especially for the transition to eHARS before HARS is discontinued 12/31/2009. The County does offer as much help as possible, but could not assume those functions.
- Ms. Palmeros pointed out it takes years to rebuild services once slashed. She recommended coordinating with other affected communities to stand united against cuts to those most at risk.
- Mr. Engeran-Cordova pointed out other fiscal issues will impact HIV as well, e.g., many services can be affected if the County and/or City are paid late or their revenues drop further. Cost shifting can also cause ripple effects. He said it would be important to maintain good collaboration like the joint meeting in facing the challenges ahead.
- Ms. DeAugustine said the Legislature often offers no flexibility, so it was critical to advocate for it locally and statewide. She also asked about MOE. Mr. Pérez said he did not know how the state planned to address the federal requirement.
- Mr. Ballesteros said the County should develop a way to collect and document the impact of any cuts. Ms. Cross said ADAP requires consumers to provide viral load and T-cells annually. Dr. Frye added surveillance could determine volume and progression of viral load and T-cells from testing. Mr. Pérez noted HOPWA and OAPP collect information on units of service and fee for service units can also be quantified. Mr. Braswell suggested a forum to collect impacts.
- Victor Martinez asked about specific impacts. Mr. Pérez noted some state funds are included in current contracts. OAPP has not quantified impact of the \$6.4 million in E&P and HC/T and about \$2.6 million in care and treatment cuts pending the results of the combined body's deliberations.
- Ms. Scholar, Director, Clean Needles Now, said over 50% of their budget comes directly from the State, with the rest from the County's Department of Public Health. She asked that the body remember organizations like hers that are part of an effective public health intervention and include them in conversations.
- Elliot Johnson suggested extending current E&P and HC/T contracts beyond the 6/1/2009 deadline. Mr. Pérez said extending the contracts would not alter any cuts. OAPP has embarked on a deliberate resolicitation of HE/RR and HC/T portfolios and re-aligned currently available funding with contractual obligations. The fifth of a five-year CDC prevention cycle expire 12/31/2009, so all funds must be expended leaving none for potential roll-over. Meanwhile, prevention resources available to the County have declined since the last two terms requiring re-alignment of the prevention process.

C. HIV Continuum of Care: This item was incorporated in previous discussions.

7. JOINT PUBLIC POLICY (JPP) COMMITTEE REPORT:

A. JPP Committee Recommendations:

- Mr. Engeran-Cordova, JPP Co-Chair, presented on the community's advocacy strategy, noting all of the work from several stakeholders to organize the June 5, 2009 rally in Hollywood/LA. He indicated that advocacy recommendations were developed in an emergency JPP meeting.
- Advocacy has already been effective. Prompt push-back against the proposal to eliminate ADAP helped reduced the cut.
- No cuts to OA are acceptable. Cuts put lives at risk and cost the state and counties more in the short- and long-term. The County opposes cuts. The budget cannot be balanced on the backs of the disenfranchised, vulnerable, needy and poor.
- It is not acceptable for the Congress/Administration to deny help/intervention. The precedent has been set with municipalities and private business. State cuts shift costs to other sectors like counties. At 10% of the nation's population, the effects of a devastated California economy will ripple throughout the nation.

B. Advocacy/Information:

- State/federal talking points and guides for letter writing and phone calls are being prepared, but personal stories are key.
- The State Budget Cuts Policy Brief will be updated as needed. Briefs are being prepared on the impact of cuts, and primers on ADAP and the federal response. Mr. Engeran-Cordova thanked Ms. Cross for her contributions to the briefs.
- Sheryl Lee Ralph noted that 6/5/2009 is the 28th anniversary of the first five men identified with a then unknown disease. The silence of 1981 has returned as people bicker over funds and ignore those facing death. HIV/AIDS is a test of our humanity. If people were really upset, the room would be full. Unfunded, she said she is an army of one, but we can be a movement if people stand up and fight.
- Ms. Estrada, Planned Parenthood, suggested all call Budget Committee members to protest cuts for HIV and other critical services. No one needs a guide to call. We know the needs of the people we serve.

C. Next Steps:

- Get the message out! A coalition of local stakeholders is sponsoring a rally/protest at Hollywood Forever Cemetery 6/5/2009, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. There is a program.
- A statewide coalition is sponsoring a rally/protest on the north steps of the State Capitol, Sacramento, 6/10/2009, 1:30 to 3:00 pm. For information, to reserve free bus transportation or to sponsor a bus call 213.639,6709, email saveourlivescaliforniahiv@gmail.com or visit the blog at [HTTP://stopthehivcuts.wordpress.com](http://stopthehivcuts.wordpress.com). Mr. Vincent-Jones noted that four busses had been sponsored already, but more are needed.
- State Senate/Assembly and Congressional local District office visits are being planned starting the week of 6/8/2009. Coordinators are being assigned for each office to schedule an appointment and coordinate a team of local consumers and providers.
- Dr. Woods suggested helping change the minimum legislative vote needed to pass a budget from 66% to 50%.
- ➡ Mr. Vincent-Jones encouraged everyone to attend the 6/5/2009 LA and 6/10/2009 Sacramento rallies if possible.

D. Roles/Responsibilities:

- Individual actions are critical, such as letters and calls to local representatives and leaders as well as energizing friends, families and acquaintances to get involved.
- Don't forget the media. Agencies can send press releases. Everyone can encourage coverage. Write Op-Ed pieces and letters featuring the impact of cuts on individuals and the system.
- No one has a budget for these activities. If you can help support any of these efforts, please do so.
- Mr. Kochems emphasized everyone impacted needs to call and visit decision-makers multiple times. People can also support efforts being mounted by various groups like Stonewall Democrats and EQCA which has an online petition.
- Mr. Zaldivar, The Wall las Memorias, introduced Senator Gil Cedillo's new AIDS Coordinator, Fredy Ceja. He continued that, with the state and special interests in chaos, the community can step forward as legislative advisors with suggestions to fill budget gaps, e.g., taxes on liquor, candy, soda and cigarettes for health care. We must also remember the days before agencies when people died and "AIDS" was a feared word. It is time to reorganize state funding for HIV/AIDS and other key areas like substance abuse and mental health to save lives.

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8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Braswell thanked everyone for the passionate and productive meeting. He thanked Commission, PPC and OAPP staff for making it happen and Commission and PPC Co-Chairs for helping run it. Mr. Braswell adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm.

A. Roll Call (Present):

- **Commission:** Aviña, Bailey, Ballesteros, Braswell, Broadus, Butler, Chamberlain, Engeran-Cordova, Frye, Giugni*, Goddard, Goodman, Kochems*, Land, Liso, Negrete, Orozco, Osario*, Page, Palmeros, Pérez, Sotomayor
- **PPC:** Bivens-Davis, Campbell, Carlos, Copeland, Cuadra, Deniz, Giugni*, Gonzalez, Green, Hendricks, AJ King, Jeffrey King, Kochems*, Miguel Martinez, Victor Martinez, Olivas, Osorio*, Rosales, Rotenberg, Rumanes, Smith, Topete, Young

MOTION AND VOTING SUMMARY		
MOTION #1: Approve the Agenda Order.	<i>Passed by Consensus</i>	MOTION PASSED